

The President. Well, I appreciate that. Thanks, Dick. I thank you for your service to the country. It's never too late, is it?

First of all, you need to know that here in southeast Pennsylvania, because of the United Way, there's what's called a Volunteer Center. Chris, I want to thank you for running that. It's a place to help people find a way to volunteer. If you're interested, USA Freedom Corps doesn't suit your needs, the United Way Volunteer Center is also a good opportunity. They help train; they show you the way; they give you opportunities to—they show you where the needs are. And I want to thank you for that.

As well, we've got people here from the Corporation for National and Community Service. Steve Goldsmith, my friend, who's the former mayor of Indianapolis, is with us, as well as Les Lenkowsky. Thank you all for coming. I appreciate you being here.

I hope what America gets to see as a result of this dialog is the fact that there are people in our country who understand that a culture of responsibility requires responsible behavior. It requires people not only to take care of their own by loving your children but also requires people to love a neighbor like they'd like to be loved themselves.

We have living examples of people on the leading edge of ushering in a culture of personal responsibility. I want to thank you all for sharing your message with us. It is—Philadelphia is better off as a result of your daily concern for your fellow human beings.

America is strong. We won't relent. We won't relent in the face of evil. And we will win. We will win. We'll win hearts and souls and minds. This country has got a fabulous future ahead of it, because the strength of the country is not in the halls of our Government but in the hearts and souls of our citizens.

Thank you for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:14 a.m. in the Perelman Theater at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts. In his remarks, he referred to Christine James-Brown, president and chief executive officer, United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania, who moderated the discussion; Mayor John F. Street of Philadelphia; Mike Fisher, State attorney general of Pennsylvania; Gloria Guard,

executive director, People's Emergency Center; and Stephen Goldsmith, member, Board of Directors, and Leslie Lenkowsky, Chief Executive Officer, Corporation for National and Community Service. Discussion participants were: Jennifer Cardy, AmeriCorps member; Ira Harkavy, associate vice president and director, Center for Community Partnerships, University of Pennsylvania; high school senior Stephanie Oliver, who founded a children's literacy project at age 13; Capt. Jeff Kyburz, USAR; Elaine Lander, nurse, American Red Cross disaster response team; and Richard Clemons, AmeriCorps*VISTA member.

Remarks Honoring NCAA Champion Teams

March 12, 2002

Thank you all. Welcome. I like a good, short introduction. [*Laughter*] Thanks, Chris, for being here. I appreciate you hosting this, and welcome to the White House.

We have never had so many champions inside a room in the White House history, so thank you for making history, not only on—when you won the championship but being here as well. It's such an honor to welcome you here. It's an unimaginable honor to live here and to share this with people from all around the country. This is the people's house. This isn't our house; it's the people's house. And we're glad you're able to see it, and we're glad to herald champs as well.

I love to talk about champs. I love to talk about winning and setting high standards and working hard to achieve those standards. And that's exactly what you all have done, and I really want to congratulate you.

I want to welcome Elaine Chao, who is the Secretary of Labor, who is here, and Mel Martinez, who is the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. They have got something at stake: One's from Kentucky; one's from Florida. [*Laughter*] Jim Bunning is here, who knows something about athletics himself—he's a Hall of Fame pitcher—fine United States Senator from Kentucky; Jim Kolbe from Arizona; and Ernie Fletcher

from Kentucky as well. Thank you all for coming.

I saw Donna Shalala the other day at an event, and she must have a pretty good touch. *[Laughter]* After all, she becomes the president, and they win two national championships. Congratulations. Welcome back to the White House, and thank you for your service to the country. I appreciate Peter Likins, from the University of Arizona, for being here as well. Where's Peter? Thank you for coming, sir. I appreciate you being here. Father Paul Locatelli, from Santa Clara University, thank you, Father, for coming. I appreciate you being here. And of course, we've mentioned the coaches and the captains.

Before we go have our picture taken, I do want to say a few comments about our country. First of all, we defend freedom, and we'll continue to defend freedom to make sure that our children and grandchildren can grow up in a free world. You know, the enemy, when they hit America, didn't understand us. They didn't think we were a nation that could conceivably sacrifice for something greater than ourself, that we were soft, that we were so self-absorbed and so materialistic that we wouldn't defend anything we believed in. My, were they wrong. They missed—they just were reading the wrong magazine or watching the wrong Springer show. *[Laughter]*

They didn't understand America, and what they really don't understand is the nature of people who care about our society. They don't realize we're a compassionate nation.

And so I hope the champs who are here understand that with being a champion, you have a responsibility, a responsibility to uphold an example to others. You probably know this; I don't need to tell you this. But when you're playing baseball at the University of Miami, there's some little eighth-grade kid watching your every move, trying to figure out, you know, how cool he can be. If you're a star volleyball player at Stanford, somebody's watching; or from Santa Clara, there's some young child, young girl watching what it means to be a champ. And you have a responsibility as a champ to make the

right choices and to set a clear example for others.

And we all have a responsibility to love a neighbor like we'd like to be loved ourself. We've got a strong military here in America, and that's good. That's how we're going to make sure our homeland is secure, by using our military. But we can all stand up in the face of this evil, collectively stand up, by doing something good in our society. I hope the athletes understand that. I hope you understand that you have a responsibility as a champ not only to set the right example but to love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. You have a fantastic opportunity as champs to help define the character of America, to help say loud and clear that we will not tolerate evil and that we will—the collective good will of our country, the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness will define the very nature of America, that we will stand strong against evil by the collective goodness of our country.

You've shown that on the playing fields, and I want to congratulate you for being strong and great athletes. Show it on the field of life, as well, and America will be a better place.

It's such an honor to welcome you here. May God bless your futures, may God bless your talent, and may God bless America. Thank you for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:42 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Chris Fowler, reporter, ESPN, who introduced the President; Donna E. Shalala, president, University of Miami; Peter Likins, president, University of Arizona; and Father Paul Locatelli, president, Santa Clara University. The President honored the University of Arizona women's softball team, the University of Kentucky cheerleaders, the University of Miami baseball and football teams, the University of North Carolina men's soccer team, the Santa Clara University women's soccer team, and the Stanford University women's volleyball team. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

**Statement on House of
Representatives Action on Border
Security Legislation**

March 12, 2002

I applaud the House for working in a bipartisan fashion to pass legislation that strengthens border security while recognizing the importance of keeping families together and making America a more welcoming society. Many immigrants who are otherwise eligible to become legal residents will be forced to leave the United States and their families unless a temporary extension is granted. The Senate should act quickly to pass this legislation and send it to my desk for signature.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also released this statement in Spanish.

**Memorandum on Inventory of
Federal Service Opportunities and
Regulatory Barriers to Community
and Other Service Activities**

March 12, 2002

*Memorandum for the Heads of Executive
Departments and Agencies*

Subject: Inventory of Federal Service
Opportunities and Regulatory Barriers to
Community and Other Service Activities

I established by Executive Order 13254 of January 29, 2002, the USA Freedom Corps in order to encourage service and volunteerism in America. Building on our Nation's rich tradition of volunteer service, my Administration's policy is to foster a culture of service, citizenship, and responsibility by promoting, expanding, and enhancing service opportunities for all Americans. Consistent with that policy, I hereby direct you to take the following steps:

- Within 30 days, identify and report to the Assistant to the President and Director of the USA Freedom Corps Office on the service opportunities both for your employees and for the public at large that are sponsored or administered by your department or agency. Such report shall also describe the ex-

tent to which this information is available to the public on your department or agency's website.

- Within 30 days, identify and report to the Assistant to the President and Director of the USA Freedom Corps Office on Federal regulatory and programmatic barriers in your department or agency to community and other service by Americans. Such report shall also include recommendations as to how to modify or repeal such barriers in order to enhance service opportunities.

This directive shall be construed consistent with Executive Order 13254.

George W. Bush

**Remarks at a Keep Our Majority
Political Action Committee
Reception**

March 12, 2002

The President. Thank you all. I am here because I am most interested in making sure Denny Hastert remains Speaker of the House. It's in the Nation's interest that he remain Speaker of the House.

And there's a reason why. First, he's a high quality person. I don't know if you all know this, but he was a wrestling coach at one time. He's the perfect Speaker. *[Laughter]*

He's a steady man; he's a joy to work with. I trust him; I trust his judgment. I really appreciate his can-do spirit. Denny's the kind of person that comes in the Oval Office and asks the question, "How can we get something done on behalf of the American people?" And I appreciate that attitude a lot. You know, some folks up here are looking for a fight. Denny's a guy looking for results.

And the record speaks pretty clearly. I remember first coming up here, and I told Denny that we've got to work together to get a tax cut for the American people. He said, "You bet." And as a result of his leadership, we got a tax cut for the American people, right at the right time.

History will judge that the tax cut was timely. It's a pretty simple theory, but one that works, and that is if the economy is slowing down, like it was, if you give people their own money back, that creates demand. And